



...A report to Soil & Crop Sciences Faculty by David Baltensperger



What a great Thanksgiving feast we had! It looked like a near record in attendance and I don't believe anyone left hungry. A special thanks to all those who organized, worked, and participated. I hope that this was just the start to a wonderful Thanksgiving break for all of you. I enjoyed pleasant travel and the opportunity to share the occasion with my children and grandchild.

Last week I attended the Farm and Ranch Show at Amarillo after meeting with the COALS department heads Monday morning to discuss the P&T process and a new approach to budgeting. While in Amarillo I had the opportunity to meet with the wheat and corn boards to discuss our interaction with them. Just as a heads up, it looks like there will be a **call for proposals from the wheat board** in the very near future, but don't forget the wheat sales this year were less than spectacular so their ability to support increased funding will be limited. We had good discussions with the corn board on potential ways to support the replacement of Javier Betran.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Ag Forum while in Amarillo and tour the research facilities at Bushland and Amarillo. Thanks to Drs. Sweeten, Rudd, Payne and Bean for showing me around, giving me an overview of their programs, and introducing me to many of the partners in the High Plains.

I was also able to get the annual reviews started during the past two weeks, with faculty under Dr. Edelman and Dr. Sweeten.

Last week when I visited the Agronomy Society meeting I learned that they are beginning a sales campaign. They have these items for sale:

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| T-shirts: \$12 | Long sleeve t-shirts: \$15 |
| Koozies: \$3 | Caps: \$12 |
| Camo Caps: \$15 | "Texas A&M Agronomy" Window Decals: \$4. |

A better description can be seen on the attached flier. The merchandise can be purchased in the Heep Center room 217 or they can contact Sara Jahns through e-mail at sjahns@ag.tamu.edu.

This week will be our departmental review. It will start around 11:00 am on December 6, in HEEP Rm. 440. I am aware that there are many conflicts, but hope that as many faculty will participate in as much of the review as possible. We will be providing lunch for the faculty.

Future Events:

- No Seminar this week
- December 5 & 6 - Texas Plant Protection Conference at the College Station Hilton
- December 6, 2006 - Departmental Review

AGENDA

Soil & Crop Sciences Department Review

Wednesday, December 6, 2006 - 11:15 AM - Room 440

- 11:15 Open Meeting with Faculty
Presentation by Dr. Murano
Q&A with Faculty
- 12:00 Lunch: Administrative Team with Department Head and
Associate (*Faculty and other personnel issues*)
Lunch for faculty will be served in Room 440
- 12:40 General Overview
Faculty and other personnel issues
- 1:20 Extension education and outreach activities (Faculty are invited to sit in)
- 2:05 Research and scholarly activity (Faculty are invited to sit in)
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Teaching Programs (Faculty are invited to sit in)
- 3:45 Other topics
- 4:00 Meeting of Administrative Team with Department Head only
- 6:30 Adjourn

- December 11-13 - Texas Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Austin, TX
- December 21, 6:30 to 9:00 - Open house at the Baltensperger home. You will be receiving more details soon
- January 10, 2007 - Annual Meeting Soil & Crop in Room 101 @1:30 pm.

Position Updates:

Turf Breeding Position at Dallas --- Advertised
Environmental Soil Scientist at Vernon --- Advertised
Soil Clay Mineralogist at College Station --- Advertised
Extension Forage Specialist at Overton --- Advertised
Wheat Breeder at College Station --- Interviews being scheduled
Extension Agronomist at Uvalde --- Interviews scheduled

If you have future events for the Aggie Agenda, please send them to Judy Young at:
j-young@tamu.edu

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